Social and Economic condition of minority communities

†167. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national survey has been conducted to ascertain the social and economic condition of the minority communities in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Though no national survey has so far been conducted, the Government has already constituted a National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities to suggest criteria for indentification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities and to recommend measures for welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and government employment. Further decision would be taken on receipt of the Reports.

Scheme to increase credit flow for SSIs

168. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any scheme to increase the credit flows to the Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loans granted by Public Sector to SSIs in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years;and

(d) the target set for providing loans to SSIs during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government has recently announced a 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)'. The measures in the Policy Package to increase the quantum of credit to SMEs (including small scale industries - SSIs)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

include: (i) public sector banks to fix their own targets for funding SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 percent year-on-year growth in credit to the SME sector, (ii) public sector banks to follow a transparent rating system with cost of credit linked to the credit rating of the enterprise, **(iii)** commercial banks to make concerted efforts to provide credit cover on an average to at least 5 new tiny, small and medium enterprises at each of their semi-urban/urban branches per year, (iv) special dispensation under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for all (a) loans upto Rs. 2 lakh, (b) North Eastern region (including Sikkim) and Jammu and Kashmir, (v) banks to adopt cluster-based approach for SME financing.

(c) According to the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the outstanding loans provided by public sector banks to SSIs in Andhra Pradesh, as at the end of March, 2004 and March, 2005, were Rs. 3,733.96 crore and Rs. 4,345.24 crore respectively.

(d) The Policy Package announced by the government envisages that the public sector bank would fix their own targets for funding SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 percent year-on-year growth in credit to the SME sector, which includes the SSIs.

Investment in Electronic Sector

169. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a German delegation recently explored the investment opportunity in India's electronic SME sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any concrete steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Government (in the Ministry of small Scale Industries) did not receive any German delegation for exploring the investment opportunity in India's electronic SME sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.